

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 13, 2018

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Thomas G. Bradford, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Authorization to Extend Sea Turtle Nesting Monitoring Contract
Resolution No. 21-2018

DATE: January 21, 2018

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff recommends that Town Council approve Resolution No. 21-2018, authorizing a contract extension for sea turtle nesting monitoring to D.B. Ecological Services, Inc. (D.B. Ecological), in the amount of \$177,780, and establishing a project budget of \$200,000 for the 2018 sea turtle nesting monitoring period.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Town of Palm Beach is required by both FDEP and USACE to monitor sea turtle nesting because of our sand placement projects and to comply with our Beach Management Agreement (BMA) requirements. Due to sand placement projects, the Town has monitored the following locations for sea turtle nesting activity:

- Reach 1, due to USACE inlet channel maintenance sand placement on dry beach.
- Mid-Town (Reaches 3 & 4), approximately between El Mirasol and Banyan Road.
- Phipps Ocean Park (Reach 7) and Reach 8, between Sloan's curve and the south Town limits, excluding Lake Worth Municipal Beach.

The above locations total a shoreline distance of 6.5 miles. Four (4) line items for sea turtle monitoring are included in the Town Council adopted 10-year Coastal Management Program Budget. These line items (19, 27, 34, and 42) total \$129,000. The budgeted amount of \$129,000 has been sufficient to cover the \$126,280 cost of the project-related sea turtle nesting monitoring services.

In September 2013, both FDEP and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission signed the Palm Beach Island Beach Management Agreement (BMA) Pilot Project with both the Town of Palm Beach and Palm Beach County. One of the Town's obligations under the BMA is to perform sea turtle monitoring along the entire shoreline. The portions outside of the Town's beach nourishment project areas were required to be included in order to create a continuous data set for the shoreline. The additional monitoring effort within the Town's limit has included monitoring Reaches 2, 5, and 6 to address the data gaps. This resulted in an additional 5.5 miles of beach to be monitored. On January 24, 2014, D.B. Ecological provided a cost proposal of \$51,500 for the additional services needed in Reaches 2, 5, and 6 for the 2014 sea turtle nesting monitoring period. D.B. Ecological has confirmed, as done in 2017, that the cost for the BMA required services in 2018 will remain consistent with 2014.

The first year of sea turtle nesting monitoring was 2014. The Town awarded a contract to D.B. Ecological Services, Inc through a competitive bid process (Bid Number 2012-10) in 2014. In 2016, Robbin Trindell, Ph.D., Biological Administrator for Imperiled Species Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), requested that the Town utilize the same monitoring protocol with the same monitoring firm for the first five (5) years of data collection for the BMA because the BMA is re-evaluated every five (5) years. On October 10, 2016, Town Council accommodated FWC's request to waive the current expiration of the contract with D.B. Ecological (2016) and add two (2) additional years to the existing contract (2016 until 2018). Bid Number 2012-10 was extended from five (5) years to seven (7) years through Resolution No. 193-2016. D.B. Ecological has informed the Town that they will continue to honor the current fixed annual cost for 2018.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2018 budget is sufficient to fund the project-related sea turtle nesting monitoring activities and BMA requirements.

PURCHASING REVIEW

The Purchasing Division has reviewed the information provided and has approved the content.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

The Town Attorney has reviewed this resolution and approved for legal form and sufficiency.

Attachments

cc: John C. Randolph, Town Attorney
Jane Struder, Director of Finance
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager
Dean Mealy, Purchasing Manager